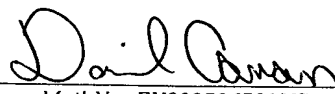


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenji Koyama  
Serial No.:  
Conf. No.:  
Filed: 3/19/2004  
For: DISK CONTROL UNIT, DISK  
DRIVE, DISK CONTROL  
METHOD, AND DISK CONTROL  
PROGRAM  
Art Unit:  
Examiner:

*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.*

3/19/04  
Date

  
Express Mail No. EV032736701US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

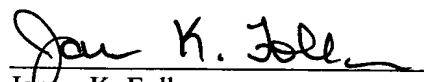
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

300 South Wacker Drive – Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: (312) 360-0080  
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315  
Customer Number 24978

By:

  
James K. Folker  
Registration No. 37,538

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney Docket No.: 1529.70167	Serial No.:
	Applicant: Kenji Koyama	
	Filing Date: March 19, 2004	Group:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2000-285602	Oct. 13, 2000	Japan			Abs.	
	6-012158	Jan. 21, 1994	Japan			Abs.	
	9-147483	Jun. 6, 1997	Japan			Abs.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
----------	-----------------

\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.